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Concern Caused By C.I.A.

Journal Editor:

This is in reply to the remarks by Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker (Ret.), regarding the C.I.A. which appeared in a recent Illinois State Journal.

I don't know, General Eaker, how long ago you acquired your information but I think as a "knowledgeable patriotic" citizen you should bring your knowledge of the C.I.A. up to date. The C.I.A. is no target of liberal or left wing groups since these are the groups they support, such as the National Student Association. It isn't a "red-inspired campaign" to destroy the C.I.A., but the truth speaking out from red-blooded Americans who are sick of their (C.I.A.) tactics.

You say that "all who oppose a strong defense posture in this country generally line in any attack on the C.I.A." This is absurd. Did you not know the C.I.A. had charge of the ill-fated attempt to invade Castro's Cuba, and it was those who uphold a strong defense, not oppose, that attacked the C.I.A. on this decision.

In one instance you tell us the activities of the C.I.A. are scrutinized and examined, and then you tell us the intelli-

gence work unless conducted in secrecy would be ineffective. Which statement, General Eaker, would you like us to accept?

The truth is, the C.I.A. correlates and evaluates information. In fact its function is to gather and analyze intelligence and disseminate it to the proper government agency. Now, let's take a look at the facts. Throughout the world its hundreds of agents, some secret and some not, have been known to speak for the United States, and have actively participated in the making of foreign policy, sometimes on their own without the knowledge even of the secretary of state.

Yes—it is under the direction of the National Security Council—so what? The C.I.A. has over 10,000 employees (the precise number is a secret). It spends from \$500 million to a billion dollars a year (compared with \$250 million for the whole Department of State). The work of the C.I.A. is so secret that its appropriations are concealed even from Congress by being distributed through the federal budget. Its director may write a check for millions of dollars without explaining what he wants it for, except in a general way to the President, and he may hire and fire without regard to civil service regulations.

Take a look at the above facts, General Eaker. Is this what you call being "scrutinized"? President Kennedy took steps to restore the C.I.A. to its intelligence function but in Congress, an attempt to create a congressional watchdog over the C.I.A. failed.

I am a concerned, patriotic citizen, General Eaker, and I believe that the C.I.A. as it operates today, is an unnecessary activity and is now being managed in general by inefficient, incompetent and irresponsible people.

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